

ALL AMERICANS MOVE FORWARD



“We have talked long enough in this country about equal rights. We have talked 100 years or more. It is time to write the next chapter, and write it in the books of law.”

—President Johnson
November 27, 1963



Civil Rights leaders confer with President Johnson. Shown above are Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, James Farmer of CORE, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. of SCLC, Whitney Young of the National Urban League and the President.

"LET US CONTINUE"

President Johnson Asks Nation

(Excerpt from President Johnson's Message to Joint Session of Congress—November 27, 1963)

"The greatest leader of our time has been struck down by the foulest deed of our time. Today John Fitzgerald Kennedy lives on in the immortal works that he left behind. He lives in the mind and memories of mankind. He lives on in the hearts of his countrymen. . .

"On the 20th day of January, in 1961, John F. Kennedy told his countrymen that our national work would not be finished in the first 100 days, nor in the life of this Administration, nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But, he said, 'let us begin'. . .

"Today, in this moment of new resolve, I would say to all my fellow Americans, let us continue."



President Johnson and Carl Rowan whom the President named Director of the United States Information Agency are shown in conference. As Director of USIA, Mr. Rowan meets with the Cabinet and National Security Council.



President Johnson is shown above conferring with, left to right, Mrs. Rosa Gragg of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and Miss Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women.



President Johnson and Hobart Taylor, Executive Vice Chairman of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, are shown above reviewing Committee progress report.



President Johnson is shown above explaining a point to A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The President and Mr. Randolph both expressed their concern on the civil rights and poverty issues.

President Johnson Wages Total War on Prejudice and Poverty

(Excerpts From State of Union Message)

"Let this session of Congress be known as the session which did more for civil rights than the last hundred sessions combined; as the session which enacted the most far-reaching tax cut of our time; as the session which declared all-out war on human poverty and unemployment in these United States; as the session which finally recognized the health needs of all of our older citizens; as the session which reformed our tangled transportation and transit policies; as the session which achieved the most effective, efficient foreign aid program ever; and as the session which helped to build more homes, more schools, more libraries and more hospitals than any single session of Congress in the history of our republic.

"We have in 1964 a unique opportunity and obligation—to prove the success of our system;

to disprove those cynics and critics at home and abroad who question our purpose and our competence.

"If we fail, if we fritter and fumble away our opportunity in needless, senseless quarrels between Democrats and Republicans, or between the House and the Senate, or between the South and the North, or between the Congress and the Administration, then history will rightfully judge us harshly. But if we succeed, we can achieve these goals by forging in this country a greater sense of union. Then, and only then, can we take full satisfaction in the State of the Union. . .

"Let me make one principle of this Administration abundantly clear: All of these increased opportunities in employment, education, housing, and in every field, must be open to Americans of every color. As far as the writ of Federal law will run, we must abolish not some, but all racial discrimination, for this is not merely an

economic issue or a social, political, or international issue. It is a moral issue, and must be met this session by the passage of the bill now pending in the House.

"All Americans of all races stand side by side in Berlin and in Viet Nam. They died side by side in Korea. Surely they can work and eat and travel side by side in their own country.

"We must also lift by legislation the bars of discrimination against those who seek entry into our country, particularly those with much needed skills and those joining their families. In establishing preferences, a nation which was built by the immigrants of all lands can ask those who now seek admission, 'What can you do for our country?' But we should not be asking, 'In what country were you born?' For our ultimate goal is a world without war, a world made safe for diversity, in which all men, goods, and ideas can freely move across every border and every boundary. . .

"This Administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join with me in that effort. It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it. \$1,000 invested in salvaging an unemployable youth today can return \$40,000 or more in his lifetime.

"Poverty is a national problem, requiring improved national organization and support. But this attack, to be effective, must also be organized at the State and local level and must be supported and directed by State and local efforts, for the war against poverty will not be won in Washington. It must be won in the field, in every private home, in every public office, from the court house to the White House."

President Kennedy—September 9, 1960, at Los Angeles, California—"Every major step forward in the cause of human rights in this century has been the product of the leadership of the Democratic Party—and every expectation of future progress today rests with the Democratic Party."

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